

National Resource Centers and
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

PACIFIC ISLANDS

FY 00-02

Abstracts
International Education and Graduate Programs Service
US Department of Education
Washington, DC 20006-8521

**CENTER FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

The Center for Pacific Islands Studies, School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Hawaii, is the only National Resource Center in the nation that focuses on the islands of the Pacific. The region consists of three culture areas, Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia, that are divided into 21 nations and territories.

Situated at the apex of the Polynesian triangle, the Center is ideally located at the mid-point between the United States and the Pacific Islands region. It is a stopover for visitors en route to and from the region, and its informal seminar series features a wide variety of speakers from the island countries, educational and research organizations, regional and international agencies, and the metropolitan countries involved in the region. The Center has working relationships with other universities of the region in Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea.

The instructional program is cross-disciplinary in nature and offers the MA and BA degrees and a Graduate Certificate. Instruction in the languages of Samoa and French Polynesia (Tahitian) is offered at the introductory and advanced levels. Summer language study abroad programs are available in Samoa and Tahiti. Instruction in Maori, the language of New Zealand's indigenous people, was introduced in summer 2000, and there are plans to make it a regular part of the curriculum.

The Center's annual conferences focus on major developments and issues in the region and draw an international audience. Recent conferences have explored future directions in Pacific Islands Studies, the contemporary indigenous literature of the region, and themes in Pacific Islands history. The Center sponsors a summer institute for the training of teachers in the State of Hawaii and, in a collaborative effort with the East-West Center, offers summer seminars for instructors from the nation's undergraduate tertiary institutions.

The Center is the world's leading publisher in Pacific Islands Studies. Three items are published in collaboration with the University of Hawaii Press: a scholarly monograph series, a series of popular books, and the only journal on current Pacific Island affairs. The Center also publishes an occasional paper series and a quarterly newsletter.

